

63-7306

23 September 1963

MEMORANDUM TO: The Honorable Robert S. McMillan
The Secretary of Defense

A very substantial contribution to positive intelligence is derived from the operations of the National Reconnaissance Organization. I have felt that for some time D/NRO should be more intimately acquainted with the intelligence requirements which are of primary concern to me and to the members of the United States Intelligence Board. It is my observation that there is a lack of essential, intimate working relationship between the D/NRO and USIB and also between NRO and DIA. I have attempted to correct this by asking Dr. McMillan to attend occasional USIB meetings where important decisions were taken in reconnaissance matters. However, he had not attended all meetings where these matters were discussed, and none where reports of COMINT, the USIB Committee on overhead reconnaissance, are reported. Furthermore, I have observed when one comes as a witness or observer at an Intelligence Board meeting, he is not fully effective.

I therefore propose the following:

a. The D/NRO be made a regular member of USIB at all meetings concerning reconnaissance activities and operations including matters of concern to COMINT. It would not be necessary for the D/NRO to concern himself with other activities of USIB. The USIB agenda would be arranged so that reconnaissance matters would come first and when consideration of the items were concluded, the D/NRO could excuse himself.

b. NRO appoint a member of COMINT, the USIB Committee on overhead reconnaissance.

I am confident that this arrangement will satisfactorily close a gap now existing and will make it possible for D/NRO to better

understand USIB's needs and requirements, and to guide the activities of NSC accordingly.

This arrangement has been discussed with the members of the United States Intelligence Board who agree that attendance by the D/NRC would be mutually beneficial.

If you agree with this suggestion, I would appreciate your so indicating by initialing and returning a copy of this communication.

/s/ John A. McCone

JOHN A. MCCONE
Director

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[redacted] (21 Sept 63)

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